

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the text immediately preceding paragraph [0119] on page 27 (which sentence corresponds to [0132] of the published application 2004/0127416) with the following:

Synthesis of the anti-inflammatory dextran/peptide bioconjugate by coupling a synthetic peptide (CNAFKILVVITDGEK) (SEQ ID NO:124) to activated dextran

Please replace paragraph [0119] on pages 27-28 (which sentence corresponds to [0133] of the published application 2004/0127416) with the following:

[0119] The synthetic peptide was based on the portion of integrin  $\alpha_m\beta_2$  (CD11b/CD18) that fits in the ICAM-1-binding pocket. Synthesis with this peptide is illustrative and other peptides may likewise be coupled to dextran or other polyvalent polymers. The synthetic peptide (CNAFKILVVITDGEK) (SEQ ID NO:124) was added to phosphate buffered saline (PBS) with 1.5 mM EDTA at a final concentration of 20 mM. The pH was adjusted to 8.0-8.5 with triethanolamine (TEA). Methacroylated dextran (2 mM) was then added to the reaction mixture and the pH was adjusted again to pH 8.0-8.5 with TEA. All solutions were maintained under inert conditions to minimize disulfide bond formation. Crosslinking was allowed to proceed at room temperature for two hours. The reaction mixture was then dialyzed against deionized water in 25,000 MWCO membrane to remove any unreacted or disulfide-bonded peptide. The purified dextran/peptide conjugates were recovered by lyophilization.

Please replace paragraph [0127] on page 30 (which sentence corresponds to [0141] of the published application 2004/0127416) with the following:

[0127] U937 cell adhesion to inflammatory HUVECs was reduced by 87.7% in the sample group treated with bioconjugate containing the active A-domain sequence CNAFKILVVITDGEK (SEQ ID NO:124). No significant reductions in cell adhesion were observed in untreated and sham-treated (scrambled A domain peptide conjugated to dextran) sample groups.